

Montgomery County, MD  
COUNTYWIDE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING

Monday, April 11, 2022, at 6:30p.m.  
*MNCPPC Building, 2425 Reedie Dr, Wheaton and Virtually Via  
Microsoft Teams*

**Board:** Marcus Coleman, Donald Hawkins, Karen Kincer, Mark Pharaoh, Dave Pullen, Chris Richardson, Felecia Wilson, Alison Gillespie, Melanie Stickle,

**Ex Officio:** Myriam Paul, Kendall Matthews, Jeneva Stone

**Staff:** Traci Anderson, Gary Burnett, Robin Riley, Sandra Samuel, Melanie Sasse

**Absent:** Aravind Banda, Carl Blake, Otto Gonzalez, Steffany Hamlet, Robera Tasissa, Michael Shimoff, Michael Ma, Ramona Bell-Pearson, Greg Kellner, Janet Dixon, Doug Ludwig

Roll Called at 6:37pm by Karen Kincer

Quorum Called at 6:39pm by Karen Kincer

**Review of Agenda**

- Added the March minutes and the discussion of the Montgomery Parks map on the agenda. Motion made by Mark Pharaoh and seconded by Marcus Coleman. Approved.

**Member Input on Community Events and Happenings**

- No update

**Discussion and Highlights distributed via Ex Officio Reports**

**Community Use of Public Facilities – Ramona Bell Pearson**

- No Report

**Community on Aging – Kendall Matthews**

- Hosting a Public Forum at the Gaithersburg for Parks. The topic will be “We Can Do Better.”
- Our commissioners have been meeting with various County Council members.

**Community Action Board – Myriam Paul**

- Headstart 90% enrollment
- Vida is one of our Community Partners. If you know someone who needs help with taxes, send them to the Community Action Board website

**Montgomery County Public Schools – Greg Kellner**

- No Report

**Commission on People with Disabilities – Jeneva Stone**

- March 9<sup>th</sup> - Welcome new members Bob Green, Montgomery Parks, and Angela Luskey, MCRD.
- Carol Beatty, Secretary of the Department of Disabilities, spoke on the department’s priorities, including housing and community living. Their initiative can be found on the website.

- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can receive adult services through traditional providers operating in specific groups or self-direct their services, which means controlling their budget and hiring their staff.

#### **Recreation Report – Robin Riley**

- MCRD hosted two job fairs on April 9<sup>th</sup> at Upper County Community Recreation Center and the Executive Office Building.
- WorkSource Montgomery job fair on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Wheaton Recreation Center, from 10 am to 1 pm.
- Montgomery County Recreation's first Prom Dress Give Away hosted by Marilyn Praisner Community Recreation on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 2 pm. Over 1700 dresses were provided.
- RespectFEST at Wheaton CRC had a great turnout, over 1800 young people.
- MCRD started the vaccines for seniors at senior centers. Fifty seniors received boosters on opening day.
- We are opening outdoor pools at the end of May. Refresh projects on Upper County Rec Center and Germantown Rec Center to pass inspection.
- We are still working on the elections.
- The first Council PHED session is on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Men soccer's getting ready to start.
- MCRD is spring break activities this week.
- We have a basketball tournament at Scotland Community Center. A football tournament at White Oak on Wednesday.
- We have a successful basketball season that started.
- Long Branch Community Recreation Center and Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center renovations are going well great. Start around May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Registration is going well. Numbers have been reduced from 125 to 80 with the waiting lists.
- Soccer for Change is going well. Max Levitt has a program called Level the Playing Field, where he collects used and new sports equipment. We are collecting soccer equipment and supplies and shipping them to the team. Otto is participating.

#### **Parks Report – Gary Burnett**

- Reminder Budget Testimony is coming up.
- Parks opened our fields on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Montgomery County Recreational Facilities & Montgomery Parks Management Areas Map was emailed to the board.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Montgomery Parks: Acoustics and Ales on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Elm Street Urban Park
  - Montgomery Parks: Sunset Yoga on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and May 5<sup>th</sup> at Long Branch-Arliss Neighborhood Park: from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
  - Montgomery Parks: Salsa in the Park on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Columbia Local Park and May 5<sup>th</sup> at North Four Corners Local Park
  - Montgomery Parks: The Spirits of Spring: A Craft Cocktail Series, on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from, 6 to 8 pm
  - Montgomery Parks: Chess in the Park at Fairview Road Urban Park on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at, 10 am to 1 pm
  - Improbable Comedy, Mother of All Comedy, on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Water House Park.
- Alison suggested a five-minute presentation from a County Staff member to explain the equity focus areas. Chris added the importance of showing the inequities of the locations in the county as it relates to Parks and MCRD.
- Jeneva expressed the importance of ADA accessible to Parks and Recreation.

- Dave asked Gary and Robin to take their community centers and Parks and put them in one of four regions, East, Mid, Up, and Down County.
  - Gary can provide a list of the parks that hit a particular region.

#### **Budget Testimony**

- Karen circulated the draft of the budget to the board last week.
- Mark Pharaoh made a motion to pass the testimony w/minor change (the last two paragraphs change full funding to proposed funding) and was seconded by Melanie Stickle. Approved
- The board was all in favor of the proposed testimony, unanimous.
- Alison is on the waitlist to testify.

#### **Board Terms and Nominating Committee - Karen**

- We will have a posting for a couple of vacant seats in a few weeks. The Boards and Commissions office will be backlogged. More vacant seats after this term.
- The following people will need to reapply: Alison Gillespie, Otto Gonzalez, Steffany Hamlet, Michael Ma.
- We need to elect a new executive committee consisting of vice chair and three deputy committee positions.
- Mark Pharaoh and Carl Blake have agreed to be the nominating committee and contacting the board members in serving as chair, vice chair or on executive committee, and report back to board in May and the board will vote for next year's leadership.
- Deadline for reapplying is two or three weeks after posted (mid-May).

#### **Action/Future Items**

- Decide on the June's meeting to include a dinner with awards. Will take a poll.

Meeting Adjourned by 8:00 pm. Motion made by Dave Pullen and seconded by Alison Gillespie. Approved.